

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 169

Introduced by Assembly Member Carter

May 27, 2010

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 169—Relative to Hearing Aid Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 169, as introduced, Carter. Hearing Aid Awareness Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of June as Hearing Aid Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, More than one out of every 10 Americans, or 36
2 million individuals, have a hearing loss; and one-third of these are
3 persons over the age of 65 years; and
4 WHEREAS, Over the last generation, the hearing loss population
5 grew at the rate of 160 percent, primarily due to the aging of
6 America; and
7 WHEREAS, Hearing aid adoption continues to increase slowly,
8 and now includes one in four persons with hearing loss, yet less
9 than one in 10 persons with mild hearing loss and four in 10
10 persons with moderate to severe hearing loss use amplification;
11 and
12 WHEREAS, Advances in hearing instrument technology allow
13 modern hearing aids to dramatically improve sound recognition
14 capabilities; and
15 WHEREAS, A study by the National Council on the Aging
16 showed that hearing instrument users are likely to report

1 improvements in their physical, emotional, mental, and social
2 well-being; and

3 WHEREAS, The same study indicated that family members
4 and friends are more likely to notice these benefits than the actual
5 users themselves; and

6 WHEREAS, Hearing aids differ in design, type of circuitry,
7 size, and amount of amplification; and

8 WHEREAS, Hearing aids come in a wide variety of styles from
9 the compact miniature sizes that fit in the ear canal to larger body
10 style aids; other styles fit into the outer portion of the ear, and still
11 others are worn behind the ear; and

12 WHEREAS, Hearing aids now function beyond amplification
13 alone, and new technology has made it possible for some hearing
14 aids to reduce unwanted background noises, amplify only specific
15 frequencies, or mask noises generated in the ear itself; and

16 WHEREAS, Health care professionals engaged in the practice
17 of testing human hearing and in selecting, fitting, and dispensing
18 hearing aids include physicians, audiologists, and hearing
19 instrument specialists; and

20 WHEREAS, It is beneficial to consumers to be aware of the
21 variety and benefits of appropriate hearing instrumentation; now,
22 therefore, be it

23 *Resolved, by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
24 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby proclaims the
25 month of June, commencing in 2010 and thereafter, as Hearing
26 Aid Awareness Month; and be it further

27 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
28 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.